(c) the amount that has been provided for development of such schemes during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been in operation in three backward districts of Uttaranchal, namely, Champawat, Tehri Garwal and Chamoli. The schemes in the sectors of Agriculture and Allied Activities, Irrigation, Health and Family Welfare, Tourism, Physical and Social Infrastructure, Training etc. have been included in the district plans of these districts. From the current financial year, this programme has been replaced by the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). There is no separate programme for development of hilly areas of the State as the entire State of Uttaranchal is a hill State and is treated as a special category State with Central Assistance being allocated on 90:10 (grant:loan) basis compared to 30:70 (grant:loan) in the case of non-special category States.

(b) and (c) In addition to the funds being provided for normal schemes under the State's Annual Plans, a sum of Rs. 45 crore is to be provided to each of these districts on 100% grant basis under RSVY. These districts will shift of BRGF mode of funding in the Eleventh Plan after the entire amount of Rs. 45 crore gets released to each of them. Funds amounting to Rs. 22.50 crore have been provided to the State Government during each of the last two years 2004-05 and 2005-06 for implementation of schemes included in the district plans of these districts. A sum of Rs. 7.50 crore has been provided to the State Government under this programme during 2006-07 till date. Further funds will be provided on receipt of progress reports and utilization certificates.

BPL families in Uttaranchal

1730. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of families living below the poverty line has increased or decreased during each of the last three years in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details of such increase and decrease in all the districts of Uttaranchal;

(c) if so, the number of such families reported to be decreased with details thereof; and

(d) the details for not taking any action in this behalf for the betterment of the life of such families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The new State, Uttaranchal was created during 2000-01 when the 55th Round (1999-2000) of NSS large scale sample survey on household consumer expenditure was complete. However, estimates of the incidence of poverty for the newly constituted State were done afterwards on the basis of the unit level data from 55th round survey, provided by NSSO. The estimate of the number and percentage of people living below the poverty line during 1999-2000 in Uttaranchal was 28.64 lakhs and 34.43 per cent respectively. Since the estimates of poverty for Uttaranchal is available for only one year, that is, 1999-2000, it is not possible to estimate the increase or decrease during the past three years. Also, the Planning Commission estimates poverty on individual basis and not on households or families.

(b) Planning Commission estimates poverty at the level of the State. District level estimates of poverty are not available.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

(d) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty

through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor. The Government has been implementing various programmes/schemes through out the country including Uttaranchal for betterment of the life of the people in general, and of those living below the poverty line, in particular.

Delay in awarding contracts by NHAI

1731. SHRl YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of india has succeeded in awarding only 35 per cent of the contracts for the North-South, East-West (Corridor NHDP-ll);

(b) the reasons for delay in awarding contracts; and

(c) whether under the PPP framework the Planning Commission Committee on infrastructure had cleared a new Model Concession Agreement about a year ago but the Model Concession Agreement has yet to get agreement from other Ministries including his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-Il consists of North-South and East-West corridors as well as other projects. Contracts of about 82.80% length of North-South and East-West Corridors and 93.39% of other projects pertaining to NHDP Phase-ll have been awarded.

(c) Anew Model Concession Agreement (MCA) was evolved by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) comprising of representatives from concerned Ministries *i.e.* Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and Ministry of Law. This MCA has been approved by the Committee on Infrastructure.

Directorate of read safety

1732. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: